



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board  
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator  
Re: Current Activities  
Date: April 7, 2017

**Transit:**

**• *Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs):***

MassDOT has been working closely with the RTAs to provide a responsible and realistic transit element for MassDOT's FY18-22 Capital Investment Plan (CIP). Consistent with the policies established in last year's CIP, MassDOT is making it clear that it will be prioritizing opportunities to leverage Federal funds and a principal goal will be renewing/replacing – not expanding – the current fleet. MassDOT will also be meeting with several RTAs to develop a research project aimed at providing all the RTAs with a shared technological framework for their future electric vehicle choices. The MBTA will be participating in this review along with the RTAs for Worcester, the Pioneer Valley, and Martha's Vineyard.

**• *Community Transit Grants:***

MassDOT Transit and MassDOT Legislative Affairs office have been working closely with members of the Massachusetts House and Senate to ensure that a multi- year bond authorization is in place to support the Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) that is a core activity of the MassDOT Transit Community Transit Grant Program .MAP funds vans and similar vehicles for Councils on Aging, RTAs and non-profit organizations so they can provide transit service for the elderly and person with disabilities. The requested bond authorization will allow for MassDOT to provide technical assistance to MassDOT sub-recipients.

MassDOT expects to announce the opening of this year's Community Transit Grant Program during the week of April 10. Transit staff has been working diligently over the past few months to restructure the program application to make it more useful and streamlined for our grantees. MassDOT will be holding application training sessions in Springfield, New Bedford, and Lawrence in early May in order to instruct potential applicants about what would be required of them should they receive a grant, and how to fill out this new application successfully. The application period is scheduled to open in mid-May and close in mid-June.

**Rail:**

- ***Maintenance of MassDOT Owned Rail:***

During the week of April 10 MassDOT expects to take delivery of twenty (20) ballast cars that it purchased and that will be used to help maintain the rail lines that MassDOT owns. Restoring ballast to a rail line is a recurring activity. This purchase will reduce the need for MassDOT and/or its contractors to lease ballast cars, thereby assuring the cost-effective availability of a basic tool for maintaining a state of good repair.

- ***Request for Information:***

This week MassDOT posted a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on how it should structure an upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFI covers some 101.6 miles of the rail that MassDOT owns. The RFI asks for ideas that MassDOT should consider as it frames an RFP for (a) Management, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair services for 62.2 miles of the total and (b) Maintenance, Repair, Inspection, Regulatory Compliance, Dispatching and Related Services for the balance. The lines included are:

- Cape Main / Buzzards Bay Secondary
- Cape Main / Hyannis Secondary
- South Dennis Secondary
- Falmouth Secondary
- Watuppa Branch / North Dartmouth Industrial Track
- Dean Street Industrial Track
- Framingham Secondary
- Middleboro Subdivision

The RFI invites a broad range of stakeholders to offer comments on how the RFP should be structured, what information it should provide, and what types of contractual arrangement it might seek or allow. Some of the licenses and operating agreements that are in place now for these rail lines (and that are due to expire in December 2017) date from 2007. The RFI will allow new concepts to be considered and can help frame MassDOT's approach to the RFP to be issued later this year.